



Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group Newsletter

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Visit our website for latest news: <http://brlg.org.au>

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Next meeting: Council Rates and Landcare:
Speaker Chris Sharkey
Thursday, 16th April, 2015 @ 1930h (7.30 p.m.)
Balliang Hall, Balliang-Bacchus Marsh Road

Council Rates are an increasing cost burden on farmers, particularly those working close to urban areas where high land valuations can result in costs that seem excessively high. Brisbane Landcare Executive Member Chris Sharkey has been looking at the issue and argues that farmers close to the urban fringe are hit excessively hard. Our Landcare group includes many farmers who show real commitment to land management in line with sound environmental principles. However, commitment to sustainable agriculture can mean loss of production in the short term. This makes it difficult to achieve the type of careful management which would result in long-term improved environmental value of large areas of land around the urban fringe.

Chris will tell us about the effect of high rates on farmers. He will argue that the basis for calculation of the taxes raised by local authorities is out of step with Landcare values. Finally, he proposes that the system results in a financial burden on farmers which is unfairly high, and detrimental for the environment, particularly in areas such as ours.

Chris has been actively campaigning for reform of local taxes. Come and hear how one of our members is hoping to make a big impact on this vitally important issue. Note also that smaller landholders, especially those with relatively big holdings are also affected by the issue.

This is an issue of great direct concern to our farmer members, but it also impacts many other land holders. It has the potential to affect the environmental value of large areas of land in the Brisbane Ranges/Little River area.

This newsletter was produced with the generous financial support of the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority

Little River Project

Last newsletter we reported on the concluding stages of this major project. Our Secretary Allan Bartholomew is busy finalizing documentation for a final report. The efforts of those working closely on this project, and the work done by landholders involved in it, have been demanding: but the extensive revegetation work in the Brisbane Ranges area, has been well worth it!

Anzac Day community event

You read it first in the BRLG Newsletter! In our last edition we advised readers to keep 25th April free for an important commemorative event. See the last page of this newsletter for a copy of the leaflet prepared by the Hall Committee to invite everyone along to this family centred happening from 1100h on 25th April at the Balliang Hall.

One year's free membership for new members.

Thanks to funding from our supporting organizations, we have some budget to cover the costs of recruiting additional members. The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA and Melbourne Water support us to increase membership and develop our group. Your Executive has decided to use some of these funds to provide newly joined members with **FREE MEMBERSHIP** for the first year of what we hope will be a long and happy association with Landcare.

Please act soon if you would like to join and you are not already a member, as the number of free places is limited!

Remember you get financial support for revegetation and pest control as well as the fun of joining your neighbours in community-focussed Landcare activities.

Contact our Secretary or Treasurer if you would like to join Landcare for free!!!

Bad news for the Easter Bunny! Rabbit control project from the Geelong Landcare Network.

"Landcare networks" consist of a number of neighbouring Landcare Groups. Your Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group is a member of both the Moorabool and the Geelong Landcare Networks.

The Geelong Landcare network has up to \$14,000 in funding to support rabbit control across its member groups. The funding is intended to undertake work such as:

- ripping
- extraction of woody weeds (such as box thorn) that provide harbour for rabbits
- ongoing follow-up activities in areas where the project is active.

Note that baiting and fumigation are **not** included in the project: but remember that BRLG joins with Maude LG in its annual rabbit poisoning drive and that up to \$100 subsidy may be available to members from the BRLG to support vermin control

Moorabool Landcare Network is also assisting landholders with an active Rabbit Action Group. This includes a regional rabbit forum providing information and demonstrations on Friday May 8th (0930-1330h) at Rowsley. Refer to the MLN website at <http://mln.org.au/> for further information

Member required to attend meetings of Serrated Tussock Working Party.

We have been asked to provide a member to represent us on this Working Party. If you would like to be involved in this group which meets occasionally, please contact our Secretary Allan Bartholomew.

"RECONNECTING THE RURAL COMMUNITY"

BALLIANG AND DISTRICT Anzac Memorial Service and Family Day

Saturday 25 April, 2015
11 - 3 pm

FREE ENTRY & BBQ
- BYO Drinks

To be held at

Balliang Community Hall & Recreation Reserve
Bacchus Marsh – Balliang Road, Balliang

- Anzac Service and tree planting ceremony
11am-11.30am
- BBQ and fun activities for children including:
tennis, jumping castles, horizontal bungee,
arts & crafts, lego competitions and face painting
Kids activities 11.30am-3.00pm, BBQ starts at 12 noon
- AFL Game on the big screen
2.30pm-end of game

Please join us in catching up with old friends and making new ones.
Help us celebrate what's great about living in a rural community!

For more information about the event contact:
0422 945 793 or 0418 524 863

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Balliang Public Hall
& Recreation Reserve
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